

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

First of all, my thanks to all that helped out with the Hamfest. We pulled it off without any major hitches. I thought attendance was down compared to last year but, as of this writing, I don't have any numbers.

The demo station performed well using, for the first time at Hamfest, the club R-7 antenna. I worked a S51 station, Slovenia, and Dan worked one of the W1AW stations.

One of the high school students, Oscar, showed up and was impressed with the station operation. Gordon, W6DDU, has offered to give him a old Hammarlund HQ 170 receiver. We might

Thanks to all the VE's, Gordon, W6DDU, San, N7PIB, Alan, K6KLL, Donna, AG6V, Ken, W6HF, Luci, KL7WE and Bill, AB6MT. We had three candidates, two earned their tech licenses and the third failed to upgrade to general.

This year marks the 100 anniversary of the founding to the ARRL. To commemorate that event, stations in every state are given the privilege of using the league's call sign, W1AW/.

So the goal is to work all the states using that call and work ARRL officials. I have been keeping up with it, although Nevada was difficult on the higher HF bands, so had to resort to 80m CW.

Last Saturday, I worked N3KM, Kay, ARRL president.

Put the weekend of June 28th on your calendars. That's the annual Field Day weekend. We plan to have it at the same place as last year but I haven't confirmed it. This will be a good opportunity to really put our new radio to use.

I understand that Frank, KG6N, is working on a cubical quad, Dan, KV6X, wants to replace his tri-bander with a Stepp-IR, and San, N7PIB, needs to open a box.

Try to let out some RF from those radios of yours.

—73, Jim, K6UUW



At the latest VOMARC VE session, Sanford, N7PIB, and Alan, K6KLL administered their 100th session! Congratulations!

### NEXT MEETING

May 21, 7:30pm  
City of Sonoma EOC  
Topic: The Linrad Radio



...testing my setup in a park in Birnam, Scotland. PSK on a wire.—Dave KD6FIL

## Minutes April 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:33ish PM by our illustrious President, Jim Hill, K6UUW.

Members present at the meeting were: K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), NJ6E (Stan), KI6JNU (Moe), W1EJ (Ed), KA6ZIN (Ron), KF6FZM (Dick), KA2QQO (Declan), KG6N (Frank), K6KLL (Alan), N7PIB (San), KU6X (Dan), WB6TMH (Mike).

Minutes from the March meeting were approved with no corrections.

### Report from officers:

**President:** Jim purchased the Kenwood TS590 as the new club radio after selling the FT950 the day after it was listed on the swap net by N6KM.

**Vice President:** Wanted to make sure that it was noted in the minutes that he voted no for the new radio.

**Treasurer:** We currently have \$2424.57 dollars in the bank. This does not reflect the sale of the FT950 for \$1000 and the purchase of the TS590 for \$1600.

**ACS:** The Level 1 Training class for held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the County EOC. 12 people attended and were sworn in as new volunteers.

There is a Unit Leader meeting scheduled for April 28.

**Secretary:** No news. Too busy taking notes (at least that is my excuse)

**Website:** VE Session Dates are correct, but the year is wrong.

**Training:** The next project at the High School might be a crystal radio. WD6BOR has some electric motor kits that might be a fun project. Ardiuno kits could be used to control the motor.

### Old Business

**Radio Replacement:** The FT950 sold the day after N6KM listed it on the swap net. The radio sold for \$1000 to a ham from Novato. K6UUW purchased the new TS590 and tested it out at his QTH and the Young Eagles event. It works great in the sun.

**Young Eagles:** Young Eagles was a good test for the TS590 and W6DDU's antenna system. Once we got the coax issues worked out everything ran well, but the bands were not real cooperative.

**N6P:** This is the Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air event on August 16 and 17. KD6FIL will set up the event. Ken has the information on the contact at Point Reyes and how to apply for the N6P call sign.

### New Business

**Bob Davis, WA6YTW:** Bob became a silent key and his widow ask the club to help with the sale of his gear. We will inventory it and take it to the Hamfest for the swapmeet.

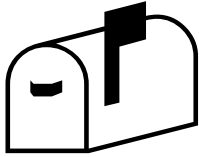
**May 21 Meeting:** KK6IJZ, Simon Poulton, will be making a presentation on Linrad Radio. This is an open source SDR system.

**Hamfest:** The Hamfest is on April 26. Jason is going to do a demonstration on his helicopters. There will be a digital voice over radio demonstration as well. We went over the list of tasks and signed up everyone to fill the slots. We are ready to go!

The next meeting is May 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM..

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL



## We Get Email...

The ARRL sanctioned Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest is quickly approaching. It is to be held the first Saturday, in June (the 7th).

Please view and distribute the attached flyer for information. If you want to register in advance, you can send reservations along with vendor fees to: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992-9169.

You may also view the information at our website by going to <http://www.ysarc.org>

—submitted by Larry Witcher, KE6LAW

## Help for New Hams

—By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a box of stuff recently donated to WA2HOM, our amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, there was a book W1FB's Help for New Hams by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. This book hits on just about all the topics that a new ham in the late 1980s would want to know about, and W1FB does a great job of walking the new ham through these topics.

Of course, being 25 years old, some of it, is out-of-date, and it doesn't cover some questions that a new ham today would ask. For example, there's nothing in this book about digital modes or using a computer in the shack.

So, I'm thinking of writing my own Help for New Hams. Mine would probably be a little less HF-centric and include advice on joining clubs and how to use a computer in the shack. I am also thinking that maybe I should write two separate versions: an HF version and a VHF version.

At any rate, I've listed the chapters of the W1FB version below. If you have any comments about what I should include in my version, I'd love to hear from you.

- The Newly Licensed Amateur. This chapter talks mainly about how to choose equipment, but also covers some of the modes that amateur radio operators can use.
- Your New Equipment—Getting Acquainted. This chapter discusses how to use the features of modern transceivers, amplifiers, and antenna tuners. It also talks a little bit about antennas and SWR.
- Constructing and Using Antennas. This chapter goes into greater depth on antennas. It discusses the different types of antennas, how to feed them, and how to bring feed lines into the shack.
- Station Layout and Safety. This chapter covers the practical aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, including desk and chair selection and station wiring.
- TVI and RFI—Strange Bedfellows. TVI and RFI are less of a problem these days than back in the 80s, but it's still something new hams need to know about.
- Operating Problems and Fears. This chapter discusses some of the operating problems new hams face, including honesty in signal reporting, how to operate split and how to work DX.
- On-the-Air Conduct and Procedures. This chapter discusses more operating procedures, including calling CQ, how to operate via a repeater, and how to ID.
- Station Accessories—What to Buy? This chapter discusses a variety of station accessories including keys and keyers, microphones, antenna tuners, phone patches (!), and antenna switches.
- DX and Contest Operating. This chapter not only discusses operating procedures, but how certain equipment features will help the new ham work more DX and score better in contests.
- Logging, QSL Cards, and Record Keeping. This chapter discusses why it is important to keep logs and how to QSL.
- \* Obtaining Accurate Information. This chapter is basically an ad for the ARRL,

counseling the new ham to join the ARRL and buy ARRL books.

I am especially interested in hearing from new hams about these topics. What about amateur radio confused you at first? What information would have helped you have more fun with amateur radio? What do you know now that you wish you had known when you got started?

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When he's not writing about amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys Elmering new hams and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS VOLUME 18 EDITION 5**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch, KG6N—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

% Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2014 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY	GEORGE	K6ITE
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2014 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY	BILL	KJ6EIG
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	FRANK	KG6N
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 16, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175  
1<sup>ST</sup> ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2014**    Membership Dues:   \$15/year individual;      \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**





# YUBA SUTTER

**Amateur Radio Club**  
Proudly Presents Its  
Annual ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest



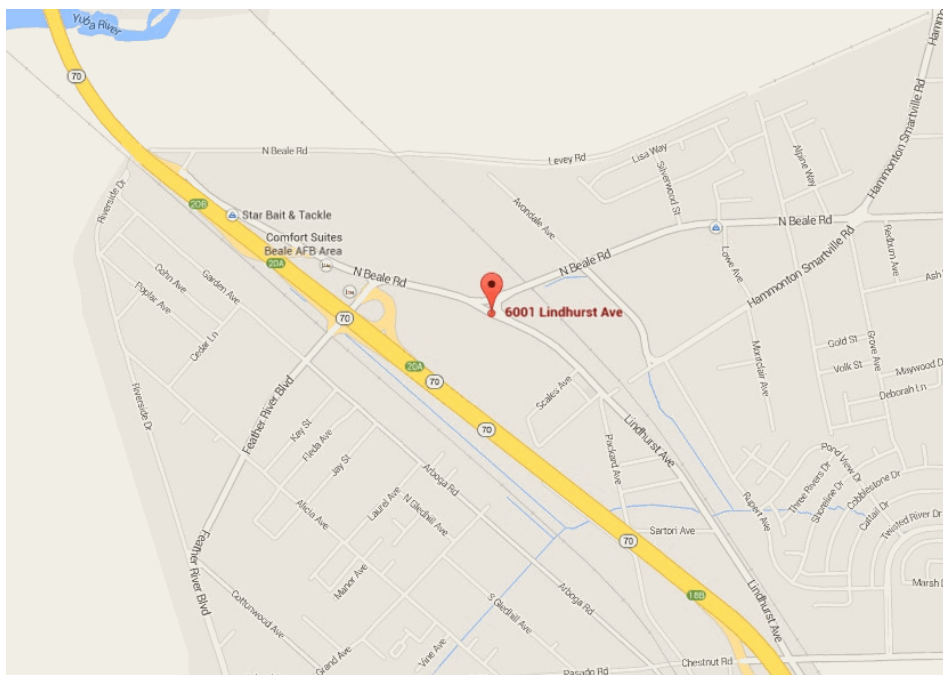
## Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

0700 – Noon – Peach Tree Mall (Feather River Center)  
6000 Lindhurst Avenue, Marysville (Linda), CA 95901



**\*Free Admission**  
**\*Lots of Food Nearby**  
**\*Vendor Fee - \$10 (Set-up @ 06:00)**  
**(Starting at 08:00)**

**\*Free Parking**  
**\*Handicap Accessible**  
**\*Door Prizes**



### DIRECTIONS

#### **Northbound Hwy 70...**

Take the Feather River Blvd exit  
Turn right, right again @ the light.  
Mall will be on your right.

#### **Southbound Hwy 70...**

Take the N Beale Road exit  
Keep to right thru lights,  
Mall will be on your right.

#### **From the West or East...**

Travel to Marysville, head south on  
Hwy 70; follow Southbound  
Directions

#### **Northbound from Roseville...**

Travel north on Hwy 65 Past Wheatland; follow Northbound Inst

#### **Southbound from Sacto...**

Traveling northbound on Hy 99, Take Hwy 70 at the split, then follow  
"Northbound" instructions

TALK IN DIRECTIONS – 146.085 – (127.3)